GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2818
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2004
EXPORT OF CHILLIES
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a considerable improvement in the exports of Chillies during 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantity exported and amount of foreign exchange earned on these items during last three years;

(c) whether exports during the last six months reached 70,000 tonnes as against 55,000 tonnes during last fiscal year;

(d) if so, total exports of Chillies so far made and whether government is confident of meeting the export demands of Chillies during 2004;

(e) efforts being made to improve the production of Chillies in the next crop season; and

(f) whether the Government has given number of facilities and benefits to the Chilli growers so that they can improve the production during the next season in view of the greater demands made from countries like China, Pakistan and Srilanka?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of exports of chilli during the last 3 years is given below:-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value	
		Rs Crores	US$ Million
2001-02	69,998	252.44	53.06
2002-03	81,022	315.15	65.16
2003-04 (E)	81,500	355.11	77.39

(E): Estimated
Source: Spices Board.

(c) and (d): As per the latest available data from the Spices Board, the total exports of chilli during April to October, 2004 was 83,500 tonnes as compared to 34,000 tonnes during the corresponding period of previous year. At the present juncture, it is not possible to accurately assess the export demand as it depends on a variety of factors like consumer preferences, domestic and international prices, domestic demand and supply position etc.

(e) & (f) With a view to improve production of chilli, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation / Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan`. Under this Scheme, programmes like Area Expansion, Large Scale Multiplication, Demonstration of new Technologies, Pest and Disease Management and Training of Farmers are implemented.

With a view to meet the export demand, following steps have been taken by the Spices Board to assist the growers to improve production, post harvest handling and processing of chilli

- Adoption of hygienic drying of chilli on cemented/ concrete drying yards or polythene sheets.
- Supply polythene sheets at concessional rates to spice growers, particularly chilli growers.
- Adoption of Integrated Pest Management practices to reduce level of pesticide residues.
- Setting up of solar drier for drying chilli, on cost sharing basis.
- Encouraging exporters to procure chilli from farmers who follow Integrated Pest Management Practices and who dry chilli using solar driers.